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DISSERTATION

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MISLETOE:

A most Wonderful SPECIFICK REMEDY,
for the Cure of *Convulsive Distempers*.

Calculated for the Benefit of the Poor as well
as the Rich, and heartily recommended for
the Common Good of Mankind.

Part II.

By Sir JOHN COLBATCH, A Member
of the College of Physicians.

DUBLIN:

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DISSERTATION

CONCERNING

MISLETOE.



THE Impression of the first Part of the Dissertation concerning Mistletoe having been kindly received, and sold off, and Mr. *Churchill* designing another Edition, I have thought fit to add some farther Observations, and likewise to be more particular in my Directions for the Use of this amazing Remedy, some People having complained of my being defective in that matter.

Now since I had nothing but the common Good in my view, in the publishing my Observations of the Qualities of this extraordinary Plant, I shall endeavour to make every thing as plain as I am able. And since the Poor are

those whom I chiefly aim at serving, what farther to be added, I have thought fit to do by itself, that those who have the first, may buy this apart.

It has been no small Grief to me, to observe that when a Fever has reigned within the Limits of *London* to a greater degree than ever have known it ; when the Bills of Mortality have been at the highest, the Article of Convulsions has been double to that of the Fever.

It is not improbable, but that many of those Convulsions were the Consequences of the Fever. Now, supposing that true, I have sometimes observ'd, that Mistletoe being brought as an Aid, and given in large Quantities, will prevent the Fatality of even those Convulsions.

The far greatest number of Sick, not only the Country, but even in *London* itself, are committed to the Care of the most ignorant Pretenders: now even these People would most certainly be glad to recover their Patients, if thereby they would establish a Reputation, and secure a Livelihood : For the meanest of the Intruders Mistletoe is a proper Remedy ; it cost little, will do no hurt, and, as even they are here instructed in the Use of it, will do eminent Good, and gain them Fame. If it fails in Success, since their Patients are sure not to be Sufferers by it, they can receive little Damage.

I have met with three or four, in the company of this Year that Mistletoe has not had the desired

effect upon; one of which was a young Gentleman whose Fits attack'd him only in his sleep; (he formerly had had them when he was awake.) The Fits that attack People in their sleep, I have always found most difficult to be overcome, as also to be accounted for: however, I am in my own Mind satisfy'd, that by a long-continu'd use of this Medicine, or by taking it in a different form from what he did, he is still to be made well.

The reason for this my Opinion is, that the Texture of his Brain and Nerves is not yet so far broken, but that they still seem capable of being repaired.

Another of which was a poor Youth of fifteen, who had had the Distemper from his Cradle; and tho' he had his Medicines for nothing, yet he wanted Clothes to secure him against Cold, and I doubt the common Necessaries at home.

His Fits were frequently stav'd off for whole Moons, which had never been known before; but upon return of cold Weather, for want of being well cloth'd, and other Accidents, the Fits would return again, and so I suppose continue to do: the Carelessness of the Parents having discourag'd me from doing any thing more for him.

A third was a young Gentleman, who had only a Fit or two a Month; and in his Fits there was something peculiar; but was not made well

well in three or four Months: so I left off visiting him, there seeming a sort of uneasiness that he was not free from his Fits in that time.

The fourth was a young Woman about twenty-three, whose good Mother had spent her whole Substance in seven Years attempts to make her well. In the four Months I have had her under my Care, there has been several times an appearance as if she would be made well: but distress of Mind from her miserable reduced Circumstances, having before lived well, has, I believe, eluded the force of the Medicine; tho' I am still in hopes to recover her, notwithstanding her Case is most miserable.

But these four Instances, where Success has been wanting, are nothing in comparison of the great numbers that have been made well.

I have lately come to the knowledge, that Mistletoe will, with very little trouble, yield its Tincture in Spirit of Wine. But, not to arrogate to myself what is not my due, I shall here declare the way how I came to the knowledge of it, which is as follows.

Mr. *Small* the Surgeon, being in the Shop of Mr. *Riddle* an Apothecary in *Villers-Street, York-Buildings*, as they were talking about the wonderful Effects of Mistletoe, Mr. *Small* said, That it was great pity that the Powder was disagreeable to some very nice Stomachs, as indeed I have sometimes found it to be; he therefore desir'd the other to try whether it would not yield a Tincture in highly rectify'd Spirit of Wine,

as the Jesuits Bark and *Virginian* Snake-Root did: If so, he did not see why it might not be more efficacious than the Powder, as the Tinctures of the other two were.

Mr. *Riddle* immediately set about it, and in a quarter of the time that either of the others would emit Tincture, it afforded a rich and noble one: so he immediately brought me a Bottle of it, with which I was highly delighted.

Several of the Chymical Writers have recommended the Spirit of Mistletoe as an excellent Menstruum to extract a Tincture from Red Coral. Now it being usual for too many of those Authors to publish things upon trust, or the bare Whimfies of their own Brains, I resolv'd to try this Affair myself, and not trust it to any one else.

I filled a glass Retort as full of Mistletoe as it would contain, by cramming of it in. I then put the Retort into a Sand Furnace. For twenty-four Hours I made such a Fire as would heat the Sand well, but not make it red hot: in this time, little or nothing at all came over into the Receiver. It is to be observed, that the Mistletoe was perfectly well dry'd, so that all its aqueous Humidity was gone. Afterwards I augmented the Fire, so as to make the Sand red hot; and from about eight Ounces of Mistletoe, I had near two Ounces of acid Spirit, much about

about the same Strength, and not much differing in taste from the common Spirit of Vinegar.

What this acid Spirit will do as a Medicine I have not yet tried, but may do it hereafter. This Spirit I poured upon two Drams of red Coral finely powder'd: it immediately fell to work upon the Coral, as any other acid Spirit of the same Strength would do. I let it stand so for some time, without the assistance of any external Heat. I afterwards put it into the Sand-Furnace, where I kept it about forty eight Hours, in a pretty strong Heat, in a Bolt-Head with a very long Neck, that nothing might evaporate. It had in that time dissolved a good Part of the Coral, as other acid Spirits of the same Strength would do; but extracted nothing out of the Coral, that might be called a Tincture.

From the nicest Observations I have been hitherto able to make, the principal Life and Energy of Mistletoe consists in its Resin, as does that of the *Peruvian* Bark, and *Virginian* Snake-Root; and therefore by the means of highly rectify'd Spirit of Wine, a Tincture may be extracted from it that contains all or the greatest part of its Virtues.

I am sure that the Tincture of the *Peruvian* Bark, from many Years Experience, will cure an inveterate Quartan Ague, better and more effectually than the Powder will do. Now when the Tincture is extracted from the Bark, what

what remains is no better than Saw-Dust, which can never be digested by a human Stomach, and may lodge there, and in the *Plicæ* of the Guts, and do much mischief: But with the Powder of Mistletoe it is not so, it being of a more lax and mucilaginous nature, and therefore can lodge no where to do hurt.

But it's not improbable that that Mucilage which is in the Powder, and hinders it from doing hurt, may so envelope the resinous active Part of it, as sometimes to hinder its doing that Good, which it will do alone, when dissolved in Spirit of Wine.

Observe, that Spirit of Wine highly rectify'd, will no more touch the mucilaginous Part of the Mistletoe, than it will the Saw-dust Part of the *Peruvian Bark*.

I am now fully convinced, that Mistletoe is almost, if not altogether, as certain a Specifick in the Cure of Epilepsies, and other convulsive Distempers, as the Bark is in curing Intermittent Fevers; and so, thanks to Providence, we have another Specifick.

In old and obstinate Quartan Agues, the Bark will not overcome them without Difficulty, and Length of time; and sometimes not at all, without the Assistance of the Salt of Steel, and some other Helps: and after all, upon any Irregularity, or taking Cold, the Ague will return with as great Violence as ever.

I shall here give an account of a couple of Cases which have fallen in my way, since the publishing of the First Part of this *Dissertation*, and very extraordinary ones they are.

About the middle of *December*, a very worthy Man in the City brought his Son to me, an only Child, of about eight Years of Age: About a Year and a half before, he had the Confluent Small-Pox: Soon after the Small-Pox was over, he was attack'd with Epileptic Fits. The Father immediately had recourse to a Physician of Eminence; he not succeeding, he applied to another, and so to a third: but whatever was done had no effect, for he every day grew worse and worse; so that at last his Parents determin'd to give him no more Medicines, despairing of a Cure. Notwithstanding which, upon the Father's reading the *Dissertation upon Mistletoe*, he alter'd his Mind, and immediately brought the Child to me.

It was as melancholy a Spectacle as could be beheld. From being a Child of lively Temper, and quick Understanding, he was become stupid. When he had no Fit upon him, his Muscles were always in Motion. If he were sitting, he would dart himself out of his Chair, like an Arrow out of a Bow, hitting his Head against the Wall, or any thing else that was before him, so that they were forced to have one always with him, for fear he should dash out his Brains, or

dar

dart himself into the Fire, and destroy himself that way.

I prescrib'd for him as follows:

‘ Take of the Powder of Mistletoe, dried in the manner before directed, an Ounce; Assa Foetida, a Dram; Syrup of Pionies, a sufficient Quantity to make an Electuary.’

Of this I order'd him to take the Quantity of a Nutmeg, first in the Morning, at five in the Afternoon, and last at Night, and to drink after each Dose a Draught of the following Infusion.

‘ Take of the whole Plant, Leaves, Berries, small Twigs and large ones, grossly bruis'd in a Mortar, four Ounces; of the Flowers of red Pionies, one Handful; boiling Water, a full Quart: Infuse in a Pot close stopp'd by the Fire-side, for two Hours; then strain out, and sweeten with two Ounces of Syrup of Pionies.’

For a Month, or some thing more, he found little or no Benefit; nay sometimes the Fits would be more frequent and violent than they had been before: however this did not discourage the honest Parents, but on they proceeded, and had their Wishes and Expectations effectually answer'd. When he began to mend, he sensibly grew better every day, and by the end of *March* was perfectly recover'd, as brisk in his Temper,

Temper, and as quick in his Understanding, as any Child, I think, I ever saw in my Life.

For Security sake, I desir'd that he might take the Medicines Night and Morning for two or three Months longer, which was readily comply'd with ; and he has never had a Fit since.

Mistletoe generally keeps the Body open ; but when it does not do it, it is necessary once in three or four Days to give some very gentle lenitive Medicines ; but never any strong Purge, which always does mischief in Epileptical Cases.

It always kept this Child regularly open, so he had never any thing given him, from beginning to end, but what is here mentioned.

I own, that when I first saw this Child, I did apprehend his Case to be so very desperate, that I did not think it possible for him ever to be made perfectly well ; but thro' God's Mercy, I was deceived.

On the twenty seventh Day of *December*, I was sent for to a most beautiful young Lady of about eleven Years of Age, whose Circumstances were most deplorable. She had the St. *Vitis's* Dance in as extreme a manner, as perhaps ever any one had : I had never seen any thing before like it.

Her Understanding was greatly impair'd ; such a Faultring in her Speech, that she could scarce speak a Word, so as to be understood. All the Muscles of her Body were continually convulsed, both in Bed and up. She could neither stand,

nor

nor use her Hands so much as to feed herself. For three or four Nights in the Week she would never sleep at all, but pass the whole Nights in the most hideous Shrieks and Lamentations.

She was attack'd about three Years before with slight Epileptical Fits ; upon which her tender Mother sent for as able and honest a Physician as any of the Faculty. I am sure he treated her with the utmost Compassion and Care ; however all his Attempts proved ineffectual, for want of being thoroughly acquainted with this glorious Specifick. The Disease got ground of him, till it arriv'd to the Height before-mention'd, in spite of all he could do.

When I was called in, I earnestly press'd that the former Physician might be continu'd, but that was refus'd ; so I went on in the following manner.

I shall recite the whole in *English*, that the meanest Capacity may comprehend it.

It is to be observed in this young Lady, that in less than a Week there were manifest Signs of her growing better.

December 27. 1718. I order'd as follows:

‘ Powder of Mistletoe, a Scruple ; Syrup of
 ‘ Pionies, a sufficient Quantity to make a Bo-
 ‘ lus, to be taken every Six Hours ; drinking
 ‘ after each six or seven Spoonfuls of the fol-
 ‘ lowing Infusion:

‘ The whole Mistletoe, bruised as is before
 ‘ directed, three Ounces ; Piony-Flowers, half

‘ a Handful ; Boiling-Water, twenty Ounces ;
 ‘ Infuse in a Pot close stopt, by the Fire-side,
 ‘ for an Hour ; then strain out. To the strain’d
 ‘ Liquor add Compound Piony-Water, and Sy-
 ‘ rup of Pionies, of each an Ounce.

‘ Twenty Ninth, I order’d the following
 Purge ; and as soon as that had done working,
 to proceed in the Use of the Bolus and Infusion.
 And for an Aid, to give her the most speedy
 Relief possible under her miserable Circum-
 stances, I directed Plaisters for her Feet, which
 I have frequently known to be of great use in
 Disorders of the Head and Nerves.

The Purging Infusion.

‘ Take of the Decoctum Sennæ Gereonis,
 ‘ two Ounces ; Manna, half an Ounce ; Com-
 ‘ pound Piony-Water, two Drams : mix and
 ‘ make a Potion, to be given early in the Morn-
 ‘ ing.

‘ Strain’d Galbanum, three Drams ; Powder
 ‘ of Nutmeg, one Dram : mix them together,
 ‘ and spread upon Leather, to be applied to the
 ‘ Soles of the Feet.’

December the last, I order’d the Purging Po-
 tion to be repeated, and that she should go on
 with the Bolus and Infusion : The Distress in
 the Night continued, but the Convulsions in
 her Nerves abated ; so I order’d that during the
 Time of those Paroxisms, she should frequently
 take a Spoonful of the following Mixture ; and
 that a Plaister of strain’d Galbanum should be
 applied

applied to her Navel; and that the Plaisters to her Feet should be renewed.

‘ *Affa Foetida*, two Scruples; Rue and Pennyroyal Water, of each four Ounces; Compound Piony-Water, an Ounce; Compound Spirit of Lavender, a Dram; fine Sugar, half an Ounce: mix them well together in a Mortar.’

January the third, she was much better every way; I then order’d three Grains of *Affa Foetida*, and one Drop of Oil of Rosemary to be added to each Bolus.’

In this Method she continued to the end of *January*, sensibly mending every Day; I then order’d that she should take the Bolus and Infusion but three times a Day, which she continued to do till the end of *February*.

By that time she was as well as ever she was in her whole Life; she could walk and speak perfectly well; she could not only feed herself, but sew for her Diversion.

For Security sake, I order’d the continuance of the Bolus and Infusion, Night and Morning, till the End of *April*, which was readily complied with.

She continues perfectly well, without the least Appearance, that ever she had so long labour’d under such a terrible Illness.

I was in *March* last called to a Gentleman, who was in as distressed a Condition as a human Creature could possibly be, labouring under a

plication of Distempers, one of which was Convulsive Asthma, which was so grievous to him, that he told me he had not been able to keep his Bed for a whole Night together, or three Months; and sometimes for several Nights together, not to be able to lie down in his Bed at all, but to sit up with Windows open upon him.

I shall not trouble you with his other Circumstances, which were very grievous (from all which he is very well got over) but only give an account what Mistletoe did in the Cure of his Asthma.

I order'd him to drink a large Draught of the following Emulsion every Night before he went to Bed, and at times to drink the whole Bottle before he rose, if Sleep did not prevent it.

Helmont, I remember, calls the convulsive Asthma *Caducus Pulmonum*, which coming into my Mind, occasion'd my giving him this Medicine.

‘ I order'd four Ounces of bruis'd Mistletoe to be infus'd in a Quart of boyling Water for an Hour, then to be strain'd out, when perfectly cold to add half a Pint of *Lisbon* White wine; afterwards, with two Ounces of blanch'd Almonds to make an Emulsion, and to be sweetned with a sufficient quantity of fine Sugar.’

To the best of my remembrance he never had one Fit of the Asthma afterwards.

But observe what a quantity of Mistletoe he took every Night, even as much as could be got out of four Ounces by Infusion in Water.

Tho' I have observ'd before, that now it evidently appears to me, that the most active Part of the Mistletoe consists in its Resin, which is only to be extracted with Spirit of Wine; yet it not being so rugged a harsh Body as the Bark is, the Resin being envelop'd in a slimy Mucilage, it will, by being infus'd in Water, part with some proportion of its Resin, which the Bark will not; and, for ought I know, its Mucilage may be of great Use in many Cases, especially in young Children, to obtund the Acrimony of the Bile, which is apt to gripe them, and so the Powder may be better for them, than given any other way: But this must be left to Time and further Experience.

What I have hitherto done, till very lately, has been by the means of the Powder and Infusion, and great things they are. If by the use of the Tincture I shall be enabled to make a farther Progress, the World may expect to be inform'd of it in due time. It's but a few Weeks that I have been Master of the Tincture, but I already see that great things may be expected from it.

What I have observ'd, as to the Quantities the Gentleman beforemention'd took every Night, brings to my Mind what I often thought of, which is, that I believe many noble Medi-

cines are laid aside as useless, for want of having been given in due Quantities.

In recent Epilepsies, and ordinary Convulsions, which are Diseases that were formerly wont to give me great Uneasiness, especially the Epileptical ones; being conscious to my self, from the most careful Observation, that there was little Prospect of getting the Mastery of them: I now look upon them as little more formidable than a Quartan Ague; tho' in their outward Appearance and real Nature much more terrible.

The Cases just now recited are sufficient to demonstrate to the World, that common Mistletoe is a great Medicine, and highly to be esteem'd. As for Mistletoe of the Oak, I have never yet seen any.

Those of the Antients, that were Men of Virtue and Compassion, whenever they had any thing to communicate to the World that might be of publick Advantage, always did it in the known and common Language: And as I design this for the common Good, were I able to write Latin in as elegant a Stile as *Cicero* did, that should not induce me to send it abroad in any other way, than in the homely manner in which it is done.

I have turned over many Books, since I publish'd the first part of this *Dissertation*, to see whether I could procure any farther light into the natural History of this wonderful Plant. but at present see no Cause to retract what I have

have there advanced, nor indeed to add any thing, or very little.

Johannes Baubinus has treated more copiously of it, than any of the Moderns I have read. *Scaliger*, in his way, has treated it very subtly, but I think advances nothing but Paradoxes. To be short, there is no one that takes notice of it, except *Cardan*, but thinks there is something very extraordinary in it; yet the *Druids* alone, tho' they did not explain themselves, seem to be the only Persons who understood its real Worth.

In other Trees that are propagated, either by Grafting or Inoculating, the Grafts or Buds seem to become of the very same Substance with the Stock into which they are inserted. But with Mistletoe it's quite otherwise, as appears plainly to the naked Eye, which I can shew to any one.

I have it from *Dr. Willis*, that it was the earnest Wish of the great *Crato*, that a Specifick for the Cure of the Epilepsy might be discover'd before he died.

I do verily and indeed think, from the Tryals I have made in a Multitude of Cases, besides those publish'd, that Mistletoe is in reality a Specifick for the Cure of Epilepsies and convulsive Diseases.

Why it should be so, I can as easily account for, from the Hypothesis of *Dr. Willis*, as from that of *Marcus Marci*.

Whilst

Whilst I was writing this, I was called to a Gentleman in a Fever, that they said was dying, and indeed he appear'd so to be; he had a trembling Pulse, clammy cold Sweats, with a Convulsion of the Tendons, and a Faultring in his Speech, that he was scarce able to express himself so as to be understood. I gave him the Mistletoe in Powder, mix'd with Cochineal and the Tincture in a Julep, both in large Quantities. This was late at night, and next Morning he was recover'd to my Amazement. I verily believe the Patient would have died that Night, had it not been for the Mistletoe; not to disparage Cochineal, which is a Medicine highly to be valued, and beyond all others that I ever saw, in Fevers of all sorts. But of this perhaps another time.

I desire for the future, that the Bark of the large Stalks, may be dried and powder'd with the Leaves, Berries, and small Twigs, as being equal to, if not superior in Virtue to either of them; but all together are best.

What there is particular in the woody part, I cannot at present tell, but have hitherto order'd it to be bruised promiscuously with the rest for Infusions.

I have not yet dar'd to rob the Mistletoe of but few of its Berries; but from some Observations I have made of them, I am inclin'd to think, that they are the greatest Restorers of decay'd Nature, swallow'd whole as they are,
either

either green or dry, and a Draught of generous Wine to be drank after them; ten or a dozen every Night at going to Bed.

The greatest Article of Convulsions in the Bills of Mortality, I take to be of Infant Children: The way of giving them the Mistletoe is as follows; and most prodigious things I have seen done by it.

‘ Take of the Powder of Mistletoe, as before directed, two Drams; Rue and Pennyroyal Water, of each two Ounces; Syrup of Pionies, half an Ounce: Mix them together, and give half a Spoonful, as oft as you can get them to take it.

If they cannot be got to take it that way, mix a little of the Powder with some Panada.

If they are exceedingly grip’d and loose, apply also the following Plaister to their Bellies.

‘ Venice-Treacle, and Oil of Nutmegs by Expression, of each two Drams: mix them together, and spread upon soft Leather.’

If the Looseness continues, give the following Glisten.

‘ Diascordium made with Diacodium instead of Honey, a Dram; Powder of Mistletoe, half a Dram; Pennyroyal Water, three or four Ounces: mix and make a Glisten, which give warm.’

If they are bound, which they rarely are when they are convuls’d, give them a little Manna in some

some of the Mistletoe Julep, and if that don't open them, the following Glister.

‘ Manna, two Drams; Mistletoe Powder, half a Dram; Pennyroyal Water, three Ounces; Oil of Camomile, two Drams: mix and make a Glister.’

To Children of about ten Years of Age may be given half a Dram of the Powder, with three Grains of Assa Foetida, three times a Day, and a Draught of the Infusion afterwards.

Men and Women may take a Dram of the Powder with five or six Grains of Assa Foetida, three or four times a day, according to the Urgency of the Case; drinking a large Draught of Infusion afterwards, and may drink a Draught of the Infusion betwixt whiles: Now the stronger the Infusion is made, the better; so that it be not made so strong as to nauseate the Stomach.

Having for a great many Years seen the most convincing Proofs of the wonderful Effects of the Mistletoe itself, being only gather'd in a proper time, and carefully dried and powder'd; It never enter'd into my Head to make any Tryals about extracting a Tincture from it, tho I had long ago been convinced that its chief Excellence consisted in its Birdlime, which is a most wonderful, tractable, soft Resin, and I knew dissolvable in Spirit of Wine; nay, I have given the Birdlime alone, join'd with some proper Powder to make it into Pills, in a deplorable Case, with Success.

But

But since the Tincture has been prepar'd, which is but a few weeks since, I have reason to believe, from some Observations that I have already made, that in particular extraordinary Cases, join'd with a small Proportion of Tincture of *Assa Foetida*, that it will take place in a shorter time than the Powder will do; but I shall not give an Account of the Method how to extract the Tincture, till I have had a larger Experience of it.

However, both it, and the Mistletoe gather'd in due time, and carefully dried and powder'd may be had at Mr. *Shorthose's* an Apothecary over against *Hungerford* Market, in the *Strand*, and at Mr. *Riddle's* an Apothecary in *Villars* Street, *York-Buildings*.

About the beginning of the last *October*, I was sent for to a Child of about eight Years of Age, who had the *St. Vitis's* Dance.

She neither could stand nor sit; her Hands were in continual Motion, that she could not feed herself, nor hold any thing in them; her Head was continually thrown from side to side, or backwards or forwards; and her Speech entirely lost.

This was a recent Case, of not above a Month's standing, and by the beginning of this present *November* she was made perfectly well.

To prevent Mistakes, I shall here again give an account how People may furnish themselves with Powder of Mistletoe for the whole Year in Perfection.

G

Take

Take of the Leaves, Berries, tender Twigs, and the Bark of the large Branches, gather'd at the latter end of *December*. Let them be dried over a Baker's Oven, which is a mild, constant and gentle Heat. When it is perfectly dried, let it be put into a Glass Jar, which must be cover'd with Leather, or stop'd with a Cork, and kept in a warm and dry Place, that it may not grow mouldy.

Observe, that its being scorch'd in drying, or growing mouldy after it has been carefully dried, renders it of no value.

The Stalks that are preserv'd for Infusion must, after they are dried, be carefully kept in a warm and dry Place.

Since this is come out in due time, I hope, for the future, that I shall find every Apothecary's Shop furnish'd with Mistletoe, gather'd at the proper Season, and dry'd and powder'd according to Direction.

However, if what I have said be disregarded, and it prove otherwise, I have before given an account where People may furnish themselves with it.

I had it in my thoughts to have publish'd at this time, my Observations upon the noble Qualities of some other simple Remedies, *viz.* *Cochineal*, *Virginian Snake-Root*, and the very common Herb *Prunella*; but want of leisure has prevented it.

A DIRECTION for the more easy Propagating of the Mistletoe; from Mr. Bradley, in his First Part of New Improvements of Planting and Gardening. Page 15. Dublin Edition.

THere is but one sort of *Plant* that I know of, which seems to be out of Danger of coupling with other Sorts, and consequently of either improving or diminishing the Qualities of its *Seeds*, and that is the *Mistletoe*; the Parts of its Flowers are indeed as apt to Generation as those of other *Plants*, but I have never seen any Variety of this *Plant*, or do I know any other nearly enough related to it to engender with it; for whether we find it growing upon the *Oak*, *Willow*, *Lime*, or any other *Tree* whatever, the *Leaves*, *Flowers* and *Fruit*, with its manner of *Growth*, are all alike. And since I have had Occasion to mention it in this Place, give me leave to take Notice of some Particularities belonging to it, as that it is neither to be propagated in *Earth* or *Water*, but upon *Trees* and *Plants* only. The Ancients made it a *Superplant*, peculiar to the *Oak*, and tell us, that altho' it seemingly produced *Seed*, they did not believe that that *Seed* could possibly be made to *vegetate*, because I suppose

pose they have try'd it in the *Earth* without Success. But as it is so frequently found growing on other *Trees*, besides the *Oak*, in our Times, I shall take occasion at once to overturn their Opinion in relation to this *Plant*, by shewing how it may be *propagated* from *Seed* upon any *Tree* whatever. About *Christmas*, when the *Berries* are ripe, they may easily be made to stick upon the smooth *Bark* of any *Tree* you have a mind to *propagate* them upon, whether it be the *Oak*, *Ash*, *Elm*, *Apple*, *Pear*, *Plum*, *Rose*, *Gooseberry*, or *Currant*, &c. The *Viscous Juice*, which encompasseth each *Seed*, will bind it fast to the Part you place it upon; and with this small trouble you may expect young *Plants* the following Year, provided the *Birds* don't devour the *Seeds* you have sown, therefore a Net would do well to secure them. I have seen twenty *Plants* of *Mistletoe* growing upon as many different Sorts of *Trees* and *Shrubs* in one Garden, which were *propagated* in the same manner I have mentioned. And I believe it would be very usefull in correcting the too great Vigour of some *Fruit-Trees*, and bring them to bear, by taking from them the *superabundant Juices* which are always destructive to *Prolificity*, either in *Plants* or *Animals*.

F I N I S.

